

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

APRIL 2003



In Half of The Six Southwest Counties, Unemployment Rates Decline During March

March Local Labor Scene

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **Janesville/Beloit Metropolitan Area** increased five percentage points to 7.1 percent in March. However, the March 2003 rate declined by 0.6 percentage points as compared to the Janesville/Beloit Metro rate for March 2002.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for Southwest Wisconsin held steady in March, at 7.4 percent. The Southwest Wisconsin unadjusted rate fell by 0.4 percentage points compared to last March, on the strength of strong year-to-year decreases in unadjusted unemployment rates in four of six counties in the region. The average unadjusted unemployment rate for the five county Non-Metropolitan Southwest Area was unchanged from last March, at 7.6 percent.

counties in the northern third of the state.

Dane County had the state's lowest unemployment rate at 3.1 percent. La Crosse and Waukesha had rates of 4.9 percent and Ozaukee came in at 4.4 percent. Forty-eight of the state's counties had lower rates in March of 2003 than they had in March of 2002, while 18 had higher rates and six counties were unchanged from one year ago.

While manufacturing for the state continued to see overall job losses in February to March figures, there were areas of the state that experienced improvement. The La Crosse, Appleton/Oshkosh, Janesville/Beloit, Madison, and Wausau Metropolitan Statistical Areas all experienced some increases in manufacturing jobs. The Milwaukee/Waukesha Metropolitan Statistical Area saw continued job loss in the manufacturing sector.

Statewide

Thirty-five of Wisconsin's 72 counties had lower unemployment rates in March than they had experienced in February. Twenty-five had higher rates, and 12 saw no change, according to information released today by the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	Janesville/Beloit MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: March 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	79,900	3,106.9	145,793
Employment	74,300	2,936.4	137,348
Unemployment	5,700	170.6	8,445
Unemployment rate	7.1%	5.5%	5.8%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	0	0.5	(64)
Employment	-300	160.6	(60)
Unemployment	400	5.3	(5)
Unemployment rate	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	500	69.0	1,426
Employment	1,000	71.9	1,205
Unemployment	-400	-2.8	221
Unemployment rate	-0.6%	-0.2%	0.1%
<i>Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.</i>			

In the year-to-date comparison, seven of the state's metropolitan statistical areas saw improvement over last March figures. Appleton-Oshkosh, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville-Beloit, La Crosse, Sheboygan and Wausau all saw improve-

"Most of the counties with the highest unemployment rates in March are northern counties that were undoubtedly affected by the lack of snow and its affect on winter-related activities," said DWD Secretary Roberta Gassman. "Despite the lack of snow, 48 Wisconsin counties and seven of the state's 11 metropolitan areas had improved unemployment rates over last year."

Twelve counties in the state reported rates above 10 percent. With the exception of Juneau and Marquette, all were

The Kenosha and Racine areas experienced slight increases, while the Madison and Milwaukee-Waukesha MSAs saw no changes. In the monthly comparison, seven of Wisconsin's metropolitan statistical areas saw higher seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in March than they had in February and four were unchanged.

Southwestern Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

March 2003	Grant	Green	Iowa	Lafayette	Richland	Rock	Region	Non MSA's *	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	25,702	17,213	14,027	7,680	8,737	78,837	152,196	73,359	3,082,241
Employed	23,793	15,794	13,141	6,973	8,115	73,064	140,880	67,816	2,882,259
Unemployed	1,909	1,419	886	707	622	5,773	11,316	5,543	199,982
Unemployment rate(%)	7.4	8.2	6.3	9.2	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.6	6.5
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	19,000	13,200	10,800	3,660	6,000	66,400	119,100	52,700	2,739,600
Total Private	13,600	11,200	9,300	2,490	4,700	57,300	98,600	41,300	2,313,700
Goods Producing	3,300	3,400	1,100	600	1,700	17,600	27,800	10,200	618,300
Service Producing	15,700	9,800	9,700	3,060	4,200	48,800	91,300	42,500	2,121,300
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	500	600	500	130	100	2,500	4,400	1,900	102,600
Manufacturing	2,800	2,800	600	470	1,600	15,100	23,400	8,300	515,700
Trade	2,700	2,500	5,500	660	1,100	12,400	24,900	12,500	422,400
Transportation & Utilities	500	300	300	180	100	2,700	4,100	1,400	307,400
Financial Activities	1,100	400	200	180	300	1,900	4,000	2,100	153,400
Education and Health Services	2,200	2,200	900	310	600	8,500	14,800	6,300	363,100
Leisure & Hospitality	1,700	1,300	900	250	500	5,500	10,100	4,600	226,600
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	2,100	1,100	400	300	400	8,700	13,000	4,300	942,200
Total Government	5,460	2,030	1,470	1,170	1,250	9,100	20,500	11,400	425,900
Federal	160	90	90	70	60	300	800	500	28,900
State	2,290	40	80	30	210	500	3,100	2,600	102,900
Local	3,010	1,910	1,300	1,070	980	8,300	16,600	8,300	294,100
Change from one month ago	February 2003								
Civilian Labor Force**	400	80	-850	220	180	-300	-300	0	1,000
Employed	230	70	-770	210	150	-200	-290	-100	0
Unemployed	170	10	-80	10	30	-100	-10	100	1,100
Unemployment rate(%)	0.5	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***	780	-160	-300	70	80	200	700	500	18,300
Percent change NFWS last month	4.3%	-1.2%	-2.7%	2.0%	1.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%
Total Private	100	-200	-300	-10	0	-200	-600	-400	-3,600
Goods Producing	0	0	0	-20	0	-300	-300	0	-10,800
Service Producing	800	-200	-300	90	100	500	1,000	500	29,100
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	10	20	10	0	20	-100	0	100	-5,900
Manufacturing	-40	-30	10	-20	-20	-200	-300	-100	-4,900
Trade	40	-80	-360	10	20	0	-400	-400	-3,300
Transportation & Utilities	30	-10	0	0	10	0	0	0	-3,700
Financial Activities	20	0	0	-10	10	0	0	0	200
Education and Health Services	-30	10	0	0	-10	100	100	0	5,100
Leisure & Hospitality	40	0	30	0	10	0	100	100	800
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	40	-120	0	10	0	0	-100	-100	9,200
Total Government	670	40	10	80	60	400	1,300	900	21,900
Federal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State	640	0	0	0	50	100	800	700	11,000
Local	30	40	10	80	10	300	500	200	10,900
Change from one year ago	March 2002								
Civilian Labor Force*	380	-640	630	290	210	100	900	900	67,400
Employed	360	-630	-260	290	180	500	1,400	800	69,200
Unemployed	20	-10	-20	0	40	-500	-400	0	-1,700
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.1	0.2	-0.4	-0.4	0.2	-0.6	-0.4	-0.0	0
Total Nonfarm (NFWS)***	-90	-840	340	100	20	-800	-1,300	-500	3,800
Percent change NFWS last year	-0.5%	-6.0%	3.3%	2.9%	0.3%	-1.2%	-1.0%	-0.9%	0.1%
Total Private	-100	-800	300	80	0	-800	-1,400	-500	4,100
Goods Producing	-200	-200	0	-30	-100	-900	-1,500	-500	-20,400
Service Producing	100	-600	300	130	100	100	200	100	24,200
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-20	100	10	0	0	-100	0	100	-8,700
Manufacturing	-210	-310	-10	-20	-60	-800	-1,500	-600	-11,600
Trade	-90	-430	130	10	-10	500	100	-400	-2,100
Transportation & Utilities	50	20	0	-10	0	-300	-200	100	-3,900
Financial Activities	60	20	10	-10	40	0	100	100	1,800
Education and Health Services	30	10	30	50	40	100	200	200	10,000
Leisure & Hospitality	110	220	160	20	20	-300	300	500	4,200
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	-50	-450	-30	50	10	100	-400	-500	21,100
Total Government	20	-20	50	30	-20	30	100	100	-300
Federal	-20	-10	0	0	0	-50	-100	0	-700
State	60	0	0	0	10	50	100	100	300
Local	-30	-10	40	30	-20	30	0	0	100

* Five counties, excluding Rock County ** Includes participants residing in area. *** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2002

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/>

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